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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1914.

Improvement to many of the Richmond streets will reduce the dust nuisance.

Better Than Bond Issue.

The Board of Aldermen has voted for a half-million-dollar short-time bond issue for street improvements. Why not sell the bonds to the Saving Fund? This is nothing but a circumlocutory way of appropriating money, but if a direct appropriation is not now practicable without some delay, it is better than a bond issue for temporary improvements.

New that the Illinois Supreme Court has declared the women's suffrage law unconstitutional, Mr. Asquith, the British Prime Minister, will probably take up his permanent residence in the cyclone cellar.

Congressman Montague.

The Third Congressional District is to be congratulated that for the next two years it will be represented in Congress by Andrew J. Montague. Mr. Montague has served his district and country well during his short stay in Washington and has brought honor to his State. Those who supported him and those who voted for his opponent can unite in expressions of satisfaction that the capital city of Virginia is to be as ably represented as any other in the country.

When they say that modern dances improve American manners they doubtless refer to the North, where—well, where there are quite a number of all sorts of people.

No Failure Yet of Mediation.

Carranza's refusal to agree to an armistice seems final, and just as final is the decision of the mediators not to admit his agents to the conference under the circumstances. In this latest event, those critics who have predicted failure of mediation so frequently as to hope for it will find another "rock" on which mediation is bound to split, but the break-up may not come yet. For instance, the Constitutionalists may soon capture Mexico City, and there will be no reason for an armistice. In that event Carranza delegates will take the place of the Huerta delegates, and the mediators can work on toward an agreement.

When you read that "Convicts play real baseball" it's very hard not to write something about the number of stolen bases. Yes, indeed, it's almost impossible.

That North Carolina Mine.

That men in public life cannot be too careful of their actions is shown by the attempt to make a scandal of the part ownership by several United States Senators in a North Carolina gold mine and the use of committee stationery to disseminate information about the mine. There is no reason why Senators should not invest in a legitimate mining or any other kind of company, but they should be sure that there is no connection between the business in which they invest and the public's business.

From these angles, so freighted with possibilities is the undoing of the canal tolls blunder, Congress would be justified in making the anniversary of repeal day a national holiday.

with authority believe it either possible or desirable to lead average boys of fifteen or sixteen to graduate honors. The younger Sidis is doubtless unusual and responded readily to unusual educational methods. Whether in the end he will be more valuable to himself and to the community than those who graduate at the normal age, it is now too soon to say.

While waiting for Time's verdict on young Sidis, which we all hope will be favorable, it is wholesome to remember that a general system cannot be based upon what is found to be suited to prodigies. In his autobiography John Stuart Mill tells us what an ocean of learning his father had soaked him in before he was eleven years old. Mill's contribution to the science of political economy is very great, but he might not have made of it "the dismal science" had he been permitted to be a child mentally when he was one in years.

The way is clearing for the extension of our national trade.

Imagination and Polo.

Only a very small fraction of the American people can ever have seen as much of polo as a mallet, and an infinitesimal number of us have ever seen rival fours display their horsemanship and high daring in a "chukka." Yet the polo games, now at their crisis on Meadowbrook's famed lawn, give all the world—and his wife—a thrill which is as real to the millions for whom polo exists only as an abstraction as it is to the few whose eyes have seen the exciting drama of "riding off."

All of us are playing polo on the field of imagination; and even if our own quartet should lose, we shall have had the exultation that comes from competing in a fiercely-fought contest between two sides of honorable sportsmen.

The cup itself is a small thing. Even if it crosses the water, we can see it go without tears, for it will have been well won and well lost, and it may come back again. The big thing, the permanent possession of us all, is the spectacle of these gallant British soldiersmen, who have played the game where Rajahs ride on "elephants drunk with pride," confronting our own valorous and victorious Americans, both sides looking to defeat or victory as all men of sound heart regard failure or triumph in the larger game of life—with a steadfast eye and an unbroken spirit.

If we lose that polo match the Wilson administration will be a failure.

A Foreign Right-or-Way.

In diplomacy and trade, the destiny of the United States has now an unobstructed right-of-way. Such is the deepening effect of the action of Congress in nullifying the Panama subsidy grab at the behest of President Wilson.

When Mr. Wilson asked Congress to do that which was right and honorable by England and the rest of the world, he coupled it with the significant statement:

That upon the action of Congress depended largely the channels into which our history in the direction of statecraft and industry would run. If we kept our solemn word, England would naturally stand at our side in complications that might involve us in the Far East no less than on our own hemisphere; the right hand of the world would be extended to us in fellowship and co-operation, barring only that inevitable rivalry to be expected between trading nations.

The United States has met its part of the compact—unimpeachably. It is logical to assume England and the rest of the world will redeem the implied pledges put forth. From this time forward our relations in the great international arena depend upon our own energy and initiative. Our expansion cannot be hampered by veiled or outright hostility of other nations.

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Quoting the headline, "Southern Crooks are Drying Up," the Boston Transcript remarks: "What a pity the Southern Congressmen can't take a hint." Southern Congressmen like Vic Mignock, Main, Bristow, Martine, O'Gorman and Britton undoubtedly have been talking entirely too much.

If people in comfortable houses, with electric fans and an ample supply of ice cannot find relief from the heat, what of those in hovels and without the money with which to buy ice, even in the smallest quantities?

Buenos Aires has a new subway system which cost \$30,000,000. The surprising feature of it to New Yorkers is that it all went to pay for the subway.

An A. B. at Sixteen.

The authorities at Harvard have decided, if the reports are accurate, that at fifteen years of age one is too young to bear the weight of the A. B. degree, but that at sixteen one's shoulders are broad and strong enough for that responsibility. For we are told that James Sidis, now sweet sixteen, will this week receive his baccalaureate degree, which he had earned last year, but was barred because fifteen was too young.

We have heard of young Sidis before. It was he who addressed the grave doss at Harvard on the Fourth Dimension, and it was his father, Boris Sidis, a psychologist of some note, who told the country that its educational methods were shockingly bad and wasteful, and pointed to James to prove what could be accomplished by educational methods of the correct—that is, the Sidis—model.

Modern educators agree that pedagogic methods are not perfect, but we have not seen that any who talk

Wayside Chats With Old Virginia Editors

The newspapers of Virginia have been almost unanimous in their advocacy of the repeal of the tolls exemption clause of the Panama Canal act, and most of them hail the passage of the repeal bill as a victory for the President and a vindication of the national honor.

The Danville Register agrees with Congressman Udall that the Smoot-Hawley amendment is meaningless, characterizing it as "entirely useless and as a sop to the sentimental." We would rather characterize it as a sop to a few opposition senators who were willing to vote for repeal if the sop were thrown to them that they might manage to save their faces. We don't think they managed to save their faces, but that is their lookout; they got the sop. May they find pleasure in it.

"The fight over the bill has been long and bitter," says the Staunton News. "The success of the bill is a source of congratulation to Democratic members of Congress with a few of their Republican friends and to President Wilson." It is a source of gratification also to the great majority of the people of the country.

"The President has triumphed over the combined opposition of Senators within and without his party, and has again established the fact that an executive backed by right can generally accomplish what he set out to do." That is the secret of the President's strength with Congress, though apparently he has not been able to overcome the opposition of the Senate.

"He'll tell his friends some good stories if they don't shoot him before he reaches them," said Villa, with one of his queer, characteristic facial puckles, as he turned to help a brother officer who was having trouble with a new saddle.

Villa has plenty of faults, but they are the faults of those he admires. To those whom he calls friends, he shows traits of justice, gentleness, and quiet, humor, wholly lovable, and belonging to the part in his repertoire called "Pancho Villa, the Man," rather than to his more celebrated role, "Francisco Villa, Conqueror and Man of Destiny."

One torrid afternoon two or three of us were seated in Villa's private car, which had stopped at a small take-off point on a hill and women—children to him—had come in to dust-covered and hot from his ride to Paredon and back, and began stripping for a swim. His disrobing was interrupted by a Lieutenant who pushed ahead of him two soldiers that had been caught wasting ammunition on pigeons, an offense punishable by execution. The officers were well set up, but stupid owl-faced fellows were visibly trembling in their boots.

The Lieutenant finished his charge. Villa looked steadily at the offenders, his lips half open to pronounce sentence; then his eyes wandered to the milky waters of the Laguna Iridescent in the oblique rays of the sun. His mouth lost its cruelty and seemed to be the starting, take-no-prisoners smile of his heroes, outlaw days his small, bulging eyes twinkled. "Oh, nobrictos (poor little fellows), pobrecitos!" Take them out and give a couple of sword slaps!

He looked at us; the fire in his eyes went out; he became confidential and reminiscent.

They can be many, unflattering names for a soldier, bandit, especially bandit—but we must not call him a bandit. He is a good man, I am told, but he is a scoundrel, a scoundrel, a scoundrel.

Why should not city playgrounds be lighted and used at night? The only objection is the cost, and some Western cities are finding it practicable. President Churchill of the New York Board of Education has visited some of the cities and introduced the plan among the leaders of the plan, and President McAneny of the Board of Aldermen, is in favor of going as far in this direction as the city can afford. For adults evening is in many cases the only time for recreation, and an evening playground might keep many boys out of mischief—Springfield Republican.

Business Men in Politics.

If Frank A. Vanderlip, president of the National City Bank of New York, and other able and prominent business men would practice what he preached at the meeting of the New York Bankers Association in New London, Conn., a right change for the better would take place. Correspondence in the State Legislatures in this country, Mr. Vanderlip asked the bankers to whom he spoke, "What greater duty have you to perform than to give the best you have of wisdom and judgment to the direction of political currents and to give your wisdom and judgment effectively, not merely to stand aside in the rôle of disinterested critics but rather by getting truly and effectively into the organization and machinery of public life."

Time and again the New York Commercial has advocated the entrance of business men into active politics. This is no experiment. Business men have served this country with distinction in the past, though they have not always been as prominent in its public life as business men of other countries, especially England and the British dominions. John Bright was a member of Parliament, but he entered politics, and so was Joseph Chamberlain, to mention only two of the great leaders of thought in the political life of Great Britain. Business men have always been prominent in the Parliament of Canada and in the Cabinets which carry on the business of the Dominion. As a Cabinet Minister the Honorable H. C. Coombs must be mentioned, and the British dominions, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, too.

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Robert C. Hart, Apple Grove, Va., June 15, 1914.

An Open Letter to Mrs. Richardson, To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch.

With apologies to the editor of The Times-Dispatch, I submit this:

The voters of the city, a large proportion of whom are city employees, are the constituents of the city officials, and not you who have no vote.

The city officials represent them and look to them for approval. They do not represent you, nor do they worry about your approval or disapproval.

You cannot vote. Are you satisfied?

DISSATISFIED, Richmond, Va., June 16, 1914.

Ships of My Soul.

I come each night to a quiet shore; My thoughts slip out to sea; Without a goal these ships of my soul Sail out of the reach of me.

They fade so quick to the sky-line dim And many are lost in the deep; But I love the song of the happy bairns And ward track.

And into my visions creep.

My soul is tortured by the wrecks Where gallant sailors die;

But I love the song of the happy bairns.

When the pleasure boats come by.

From yonder ship a brother speaks,

I see my father smile;

Across the sea they call to me.

And the years turn back a while.

But the ships of my soul are fate-ships.

Whatever their freight may be;

There is never a dawn but finds them gone;

For they all go down at sea.

John Carl Parrish, in National Magazine.

Campaigning With Villa

GREGORY MAXON, in the Outlook.

The lustre of Villa's name is bringing him scores of recruits every day, and foreigners who have just come to Northern Mexico via New Orleans from Mexico City assure me that thousands of Federalists disgusted with the bungling of their leaders, and turned get into the command of the former Chihuahua mule-drivers. The Federals are convinced that he bears a charmed life.

Time and again their sharpshooters have tried for him as he loomed up suddenly on his big bay horse, directing the aim of the artillery with deadly cool commands: "Mas derecho" ("more to the right"), "Mas izquierdo" ("to the left"), "A la defensiva" (into the attack). They have upped the bullets whined louder and dismounted to take a rifle in the trenches. One of these keen-eyed Federal riflemen when taken prisoner had the brazenness to tell Villa of his efforts to bag the big leader.

"I fired at you ten times, but general, but it's no use; you bear a charm, and my old girl (his rifle) knew it and missed."

The frown that had begun to cloud Villa's unshaved face broke into a smile.

"That's right, boy. No use wasting ammunition on me. Now go back and tell that to your companions." He waved toward the hills that sheltered the enemy.

"But, sir, general, I want to fight for you," pleaded the little sharpshooter.

"As do I say; andante (hurry up)," bellowed Villa, and motioned to three soldiers, who threw the poor Federal onto a knock-kneed, razor-backed mule, which, under the urge of a bayonet thrust in the flank, sped for the distant hills at a jack-rabbit's speed.

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